

**Fix Your Eyes on Jesus the Sender: “You are my witnesses.”**

Focus Passage: Luke 24:36–49; Acts 1:6–9

Larger Context: Luke’s closing accounts of Jesus’ appearances to disciples after His resurrection.

Other Passages Referenced: Acts 5:32; 10:39; 13:31; 27; 1 Corinthians 15:20;

**Sermon Recap**

Luke 24 tells of Jesus’ first appearances to people after He had risen from the dead. They were the first and only people to know that death is not the end. They had seen with their own eyes that the death of Jesus had been reversed by His coming back to life. Jesus went on to explain to them that his suffering, death, and resurrection were necessary to fulfill what had been written about Him as the Messiah in the Law of Moses, the Psalms, and the Prophets.

Jesus explained to them that forgiveness of sins was now possible, not through the sacrifice of animals, but through His own blood that He shed on the cross and through His resurrection from the dead. Repentance from their sins and trust in Jesus’ sacrifice would bring forgiveness of sins. Jesus told those to whom He had revealed Himself “witnesses of these things” and said that as a result of their witness, the gospel message of repentance and forgiveness in His name would be preached to all nations (every ethnic group).

Knowing that Jesus calls us to be His witnesses, we must answer the question, “What is a witness?” Jesus repeats the word “see” three times in the passage. Witnesses must have seen something, in particular the power of Jesus and the Spirit to bring new life out of what had been dead. Then, Jesus told them they were to go and tell others what they had seen. Simply put, a witness tells others what they have seen. We are not all called to be prosecutors, philosophers, commentators, or social media influencers, but we are all called to be witnesses. Being a witness often involves a certain amount of suffering and is always an act of submission.

Where are we to witness? Jesus calls His disciples to witness in Jerusalem (where you are or where you have been called to wait), in Judea (close by and culturally similar), in Samaria (close by and culturally different), and finally, to the ends of the earth (further physically and culturally than you imagined Jesus would ask you to go). Essentially, Jesus calls His disciples to be witnesses anywhere and everywhere we find ourselves, including places we would not likely choose to go to if Jesus had not commanded us.

How can we become better witnesses? The passage suggests four instructions. First, receive the peace Jesus offers (v. 36). Peace refers back to the shalom of universal flourishing that existed before sin entered the world. Second, we are to read and understand what God’s word says (vv. 44–45). Jesus opened their minds to understand what the Bible said about Him. Third, we are to wait for the Spirit to empower us for witness (v. 49). Jesus told them to stay where they were in Jerusalem until they were clothed with power from the Spirit on high. Fourth, we are to worship together (vv. 52–53). Their witness proceeded from their worship.

The resurrected Jesus is revealed to us in the Bible. Where have I seen the resurrected Christ? Will you worship Him and then go to become His witness?

**Interpretation Helps**

- Both the Gospel of Luke and the Book of Acts were written by a physician who was likely a Gentile. Both works were specifically addressed to a Gentile named Theophilus, apparently with a goal of

leading him to saving faith in Jesus. Acts shows how the Holy Spirit used the early Church to continue the Holy Spirit-empowered ministry of Jesus.

- The Greek noun for “witness” comes from the verb *martureo*, the word from which we get the English “martyr.”

### Group Gathering

**Group Check-in** — Care, Celebration, Encouragement (About 1/3 of meeting time)

1. Informal conversation to allow individuals to catch up with one another.
2. Ask if anyone would share how they’ve been hearing and obeying God’s direction.

**Allow the Word to Speak** — Be Hearers of the Word (About 1/3 of meeting time)

*READ Luke 24:36–53 and Acts 1:6–9*

1. What from the passage or sermon was most impactful to you?
2. Were you left with any questions or confusion about the passage or sermon?
3. When Jesus spoke of the disciples being “witnesses of these things,” of what were they to be witnesses? (Luke 24:36)
4. What was to be the outcome of their witness? (Luke 24:37)
5. Sometimes when watching a television series, scenes from previous episodes will be shown before the current episode to remind viewers of what has happened. How does the introduction to the Book of Acts remind readers of what was said at the end of Luke’s Gospel? ... What are some of the main points that are repeated?

**Put the Word into Practice** — Be Doers of the Word (About 1/3 of meeting time)

1. Last week’s message taught how Jesus gave the Great Commission, sending out His disciples to be disciple-makers. This week’s message focuses on Jesus’ disciples being “witnesses.” How do you explain the relationship between being a witness of the gospel and a maker of disciples?
2. How and where have you recently told someone about what you have seen related to Jesus’ death and resurrection?
3. It is hard to faithfully witness the message of the gospel when we lack shalom in our own lives. Are you aware of anything keeping you from receiving the peace of Jesus?
4. How have you experienced the Holy Spirit empowering you to witness?
5. Can you relate how worship and witness have been connected in your life and ministry?
6. Do you sense God leading you to witness to anyone in particular? Write down their names and pray for the right timing and for their openness to receive your witness.

**The Big Question:** What do you sense God’s Spirit saying to you and what concrete action will you take in response? Share your answer with the group or another trusted Christian and ask them to pray for you.

SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES: Click [here](#) for some good opportunities.



**“Is everything sad going to come untrue?”**

***Sam Gamgee***  
***The Lord of the Rings***



**“But in fact Christ has been raised  
from the dead, the firstfruits of those  
who have fallen asleep.”**

***1 Corinthians 15:20***



# **What should Jesus' disciples do? — Lk. 24:36-53**

- **Become witnesses**



**“You are witnesses...” — Luke 24:36-53**

- **What is a witness?**
- **Where do we witness?**
- **How can we become better witnesses?**



**“You are witnesses...” — Luke 24:36-53**

- **What is a witness? — vv.38-39, 45-48**

- **A witness tells others what they have seen**



- **“This Jesus God raised up, and of that we all are witnesses.” —*Acts 2:32***
- **“And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey him.” —*Acts 5:32***
- **“And we are witnesses of all that he did both in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree.” —*Acts 10:39***



- **And for many days he appeared to those who had come up with him from Galilee to Jerusalem, who are now his witnesses to the people. —Acts 13:31**



**“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judaea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”**

***Acts 1:8***



**“You are witnesses...” — Luke 24:36-53**

**• Where do we witness? — v.47, Acts 1:8**

**◦ Jerusalem: where you are/**

**where Jesus has told you to wait**

**◦ Judaea: close by and culturally similar**

**◦ Samaria: close by and culturally different**

**◦ End of the earth: further than you imagine  
Jesus would ask you to go**



**Witness =Gk. Martureo**



**“You are witnesses...” — Luke 24:36-53**

- **How can we become better witnesses?**
  - **Receive the peace—v.36**
  - **Read the Word—vv.45-46**
  - **Wait for the Spirit—v.49**
  - **Worship together—vv.52-53**



**“The webbing together of God, humans, and all creation in justice, fulfillment, and delight is what the Hebrew prophets call shalom. We call it peace, but it means far more than mere peace of mind or a ceasefire between enemies. In the Bible, shalom means universal flourishing, wholeness, and delight...Shalom, in other words, is the way things ought to be.”**

***Cornelius Plantinga***

***Not the way It's Supposed to Be: A Breviary of Sin***